



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**St Aloysius Primary School
Lisburn**

Inspected: March 2008

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- | | | | | |
|----|-----|--|------|---|
| A. | i. | School: St Aloysius Primary
Lisburn | iii. | Date of Inspection: W/B 03.03.08 |
| | ii. | School Reference Number: 403-3306 | iv. | Nature of Inspection: Short |

B.

School Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Year 1 Intake	34	37	28	36	48
Enrolments					
Primary	262	259	255	251	257
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	26	26	26	26	26
Special Unit	0	0	0	0	0

The enrolment for the current year is the figure on the day of notification of inspection. For previous years it is the figure in the annual return to the Department of Education.

The calculations at C and D should be based on the total of the primary and reception enrolments only.

- C. Average Attendance for the Previous School Year
(expressed as a percentage):

95%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
(including the principal and part-time teachers):
(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

11

1

0

- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 23.3 NI PTR: 20.8

- iii. Average Class Size: 25.7

- iv. Class Size (Range): 18 to 34

- #### v. Ancillary Support:

- Number of Hours
- Per Week:**

- | | | |
|------|--|----|
| i. | Clerical support: | 24 |
| ii. | Official Making A Good Start Support: | 25 |
| iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 58 |

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| vi. | Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | 1.55% |
|-----|--|-------|

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 9%

- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 12%

ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 1TB (403-3306)

St Aloysius Primary School is situated on the Ballinderry Road in the city of Lisburn. Nearly all of the children attending the school come from the locality. The school's enrolment currently stands at 257; 12% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of questionnaires by the parents and the teachers, as well as meetings with a group of children in year 6. One hundred and twenty-seven questionnaires were issued to parents; approximately 48% were returned to the Department of Education (DE) of which 32 contained additional written comments. The parents commented on the welcoming atmosphere within the school, the good communication between the school and the parents, the very good leadership of the Principal, and the dedication and approachability of the staff. The teachers remarked on the good working relationships and the enthusiastic and well-behaved children. The children report that they feel happy and safe within the school, and know who to speak to if they have a concern. The inspection confirms that these are strengths of the school. The views of the parents and the teachers have been shared with the Principal.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the school are very good. The school has procedures in place which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant DE Circulars. The staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures, and have the opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school. Among the strengths are:

- the quality of the working relationships throughout the school;
- the very caring and supportive ethos;
- the high quality of pastoral care provision; and
- the effective ways of communicating with parents.

The school gives very good attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity. There are effective policies and programmes in place, for example, a healthy breakfast club, water provision, a "healthy living" week and effective links with catering staff, all of which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the positive attitudes of the children who take personal responsibility for their learning, and good account of the diverse opinions, cultures and views of others;
- the teaching observed, which was always satisfactory, with the majority of lessons very good and a minority excellent;
- the high standards achieved by most of the children in line with their ability;

- the very good analysis and use of a wide range of quantitative data, including benchmarked information, to set appropriate targets for improvement and inform the school's processes for self-evaluation leading to improvement;
- the very good leadership of the Principal, who is supported well by the Vice-principal: under his leadership there has been a recent and appropriate reallocation and clarification of roles and responsibilities, which should now be developed further to involve the various co-ordinators in the implementation of quality improvement strategies within their area of responsibility; and
- the School Development Plan which sets out appropriate areas for improvement in the medium- and long-term, particularly the increased involvement of the various co-ordinators in lesson observation and giving subsequent feedback to teachers on the quality of learning observed.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school is very good. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are being well met. The parents and local community can have confidence in the school's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

THE NURSERY UNIT

1. The nursery unit, opened in September 1999, is situated in converted classrooms within the primary school; it has a secure outdoor play area.

2. The parents and staff were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery unit through the inspection questionnaires. All of those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the nursery unit's work; some parents included written comments praising the staff and the work of the nursery unit. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the school is very good. The nursery unit has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection that comply with Department of Education Circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that these policies and procedures are implemented effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The nursery unit gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

5. The main strengths within the nursery unit's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.

- The nursery unit's positive ethos promotes effectively the children's confidence and self-esteem. Working relationships between the staff and the children are very good. The staff provide the children with a high level of reassurance and support. They have established very good links and communication with the parents, outside agencies and local schools.
- During the inspection, there were many examples of effective interaction between the staff and the children that helped to extend the children's thinking and learning.
- The staff make good efforts to address the needs of those children who require additional support with their learning.
- The nursery unit's programme provides good opportunities for learning in nearly all aspects of the pre-school programme. In particular, the programme promotes effectively the children's personal, social, emotional and language development.
- The staff's regular attendance at a wide range of courses and cluster meetings with other schools is having a positive impact on improving many aspects of the work in the nursery unit.
- The teacher-in-charge of the nursery unit is a good role-model and brings a high level of enthusiasm to her work; she provides effective leadership for the hard-working and committed staff.

6. The following area needs attention.

- Aspects of the latter part of the day should be improved in order to ensure that all time is used more effectively to promote the children's learning.

7. The staff have made good progress in implementing some useful methods of self-evaluation. The nursery unit has a School Development Plan with some appropriate targets for improvement. In order to further develop the process of self-evaluation the staff should review and prioritise the targets set and put more emphasis on the gathering of evidence to demonstrate improvement in the children's learning.

8. The quality of education provided in this nursery unit is very good. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents and local community can have confidence in the nursery unit's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, LISBURN

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	0	0
Attending part-time	26	0
Under 3 years of age*	3	0
With statement of SEN**	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4***	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	4	0
With English as an additional language	6	0

* On 1 July.

** Special Educational Needs.

*** The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	3
Average attendance for the previous year.	

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
-	3¾ hours	

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	1	0
Nursery Assistants	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	0	1

Number of: ****	
Students	2
Trainees	0

**** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)

Number issued	26
Percentage returned	50%
Number of written comments	3

A number of quantitative terms are used in the report. In percentages, the terms correspond as follows:-

More than 90%	- almost/nearly all
75%-90%	- most
50%-74%	- a majority
30%-49%	- a significant minority
10%-29%	- a minority
Less than 10%	- very few/a small number.

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